

Because of its character this volume would be of but limited interest to the medical student who might better approach the subject of Epilepsy in a more orderly fashion as presented in any of the several excellent neurological textbooks now available, as for example in "Diseases of the Nervous System" by Russell Brain. For the more advanced student and the physician concerned with the convulsive reactivity of his patients, the volume should prove both stimulating and rewarding. For the neurophysiologist, electroencephalographer, neurologist and neurological surgeon, the book definitely is a "must."

OFFICE IMMUNOLOGY, Including Allergy. A Guide for the Practitioner. Edited by Marion B. Sulzberger and Rudolf L. Baer. Authors: Marion B. Sulzberger, M.D., Professor of Clinical Dermatology and Director, New York Skin and Cancer Unit, New York Postgraduate Medical School and Hospital; W. C. Spain, M.D., Clinical Professor of Medicine, New York Postgraduate Medical School and Hospital; Rudolf L. Baer, M.D., Instructor in Dermatology and Syphilology, New York Skin and Cancer Unit, New York Postgraduate School and Hospital; Abram Kanof, M.D., Adjunct Pediatrician, Jewish Hospital, Brooklyn; Alfred J. Weil, M.D., Lederle Laboratories Division, American Cyanamid Company; Naomi M. Kanof, M.D., Associate Attending in Dermatology, Garfield Memorial and Children's Hospitals, Washington, D. C. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., Chicago. 1947. Price, \$6.50.

Office Immunology is a clinical handbook containing the essential information regarding immunologic procedures indispensable in the diagnosis and treatment of allergic and infectious diseases. The authors, combining the experience of the dermatologist, allergist, pediatrician and immunologist have selected with careful discrimination the material which should be included under this title. Controversial ideas and methods have been excluded. The immunologic procedures described, include only those which can be performed on the patient by the practicing physician without complicated laboratory facilities. The technics of performing the tests and the criteria for evaluation of results are described in detail.

The range of subject matter is indicated by the chapter headings. The book begins with two chapters devoted to descriptions of the common technics of diagnosis, prophylaxis and therapy. Then follows chapters on the immunology of infections; the immunologic principle of transfusion reactions and the Rh factor; the respiratory allergies; dermatologic immunology; immunologic management of spider, insect and snake bites; and finally a chapter on miscellaneous allergies. The chapter on infectious diseases contains not only the important facts on the diseases described, but also, a useful compilation of detailed specifications of immunologic preparations, including the name of the supplying firm, complete information regarding packaging, dosage schedules, etc.

Study of this book re-emphasizes the numerous and indispensable uses of immunologic methods in the day by day practice of medicine. Office Immunology is unique in the wide range of useful information included in one volume. It should be a useful addition to the desk library of the general practitioner, internist, dermatologist, pediatrician and even the allergist.

HEADACHE AND OTHER PAIN. By Harold G. Wolff, M.D., Professor of Medicine (Neurology) and Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Cornell University Medical College. Oxford University Press. 1948. \$12.00.

Considering the relative frequency of headache as a presenting symptom, the practitioner of medicine should be delighted by the advent of a treatise of over 600 pages devoted solely to this subject. Most of us are familiar with one or another aspect of the researches of the author and his coworkers on the general subject of pain. They have accomplished much in controlling experimental procedures in a

phenomenon which must, by definition, remain in the last analysis subjective.

The first part of the book deals with the mechanism of pain in general. Following this is an exhaustive treatment, from the experimental aspect, of pain-sensitive structures in the head, based on careful observations made during neurosurgical procedures. The remainder deals in detail with the type and mechanism of head pain in those conditions, varying from cerebral neoplasm to dental caries, in which headache is a striking symptom.

Migraine receives extensive treatment, both from the standpoint of the physiological mechanism of the production of its symptomatology and the personality structure in which it is prone to develop. For the consideration of this syndrome alone the book is well worth reading.

The author's approach to the subject is far from being confined to the theoretical; treatment of the patient is given adequate consideration. In all, the book can be highly recommended to the profession at large. For the neurologist and psychiatrist it is extremely valuable.

HISTORY OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, 1797-1947. Published by the Medical Society of the County of Westchester, 1947. Cloth bound, 193 pages.

The history of this county medical society of over 1,000 members was published in honor of its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary, dedicated to its two past historians, and compiled by its present historian, Dr. Lawrence D. Redway.

The first county medical society in the state of New York began: "at a respectable Meeting of Physicians of the County of Westchester on the 8th day of May, 1797—at the House of William Barker in the White Plains—Present—" The names of the eight founding fathers followed.

The book is divided into two parts. Part I consists of an interesting historical sketch of the period prior to the society's inception and through it until 1922. Part II, the larger portion of the book, is devoted to a year-by-year factual report of the society's activities from 1922 to 1947, and includes the records of the articles of incorporation of the society and the reason therefor, at the surprisingly late date of 1935. Since the minutes of the society from 1779 to 1831 were unaccountably "lost," the records of its medical men and events for that period were gleaned from the newspapers of the county and from other sources.

The book is well annotated and documented and will be of inestimable value for future historical reference.

THE ACUTE BACTERIAL DISEASES—Their Diagnosis and Treatment. By Harry F. Dowling, M.D., F. A. C. P., Clinical Professor of Medicine, George Washington University; with the collaboration of Lewis K. Sweet, M.D., Chief Medical Officer in Pediatrics and Infectious Disease, Gallinger Municipal Hospital. W. B. Saunders Company. 1948. \$6.50.

Descriptions of the important bacterial infections currently available in medical textbooks are confusing and incomplete. None has segregated these important disorders on the basis of the etiological agents. This new book by Dowling is a most important contribution. A preliminary section is devoted to the principles of diagnosis and treatment of the acute bacterial infections. This is followed by a detailed consideration of the diseases caused by the various infectious agents.

Only minor criticisms of any part of the work are indicated. The treatment of subacute bacterial endocarditis is not described in sufficient detail in the light of present information. The type of renal lesion associated with sulfonamide therapy which is not caused by precipitation of crystals in the renal tubules but by a diffuse process presumably the result of sensitization to the drug, is not mentioned. This is a serious oversight since this complication cannot be prevented by increasing the flow of urine or by the administra-

tion of alkali. Recent developments in the field of penicillin therapy involving less frequent administration of the ordinary soluble form of the drug were not available at the time the book went to press.

This book should be in the library of all physicians and medical students. It will be of particular value to the latter group and to their teachers, since the information presented has not been readily available elsewhere.

BERGEY'S MANUAL OF DETERMINATIVE BACTERIOLOGY. Board of Editor-Trustees Robert S. Breed, New York State Experiment Station (Cornell University), Geneva, New York; E. G. D. Murray, McGill University, Montreal, Province Quebec, Canada; and A. Parker Hitchens, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Sixth Edition. The Williams & Wilkins Company. \$15.00.

The sixth edition of Bergey's Manual brings this well known and valuable guide to the classification of the bacteria up to date. The book has been expanded to include additional species and new information. An index of "Sources and Habitats" will be of particular value in the identification of unknown organisms. Inspection of several sections reveals the considerable confusion that still exists in regard to the delineation of species among the bacteria and viruses.

This volume is an essential tool for general bacteriologists. It is much less valuable for the medical bacteriologist since better and more usable descriptions of the human pathogens are available.

HANDBOOK OF TREATMENT AND MEDICAL FORMULARY. By Charles M. Bruber, Ph.D., M.D., Professor of Pharmacology, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. F. A. Davis Company, Publishers, Philadelphia. 1948. \$7.00.

This book is written as a reference work and a guide in drug prescription therapy. Its reasons for being in existence are the rapid advance in drug therapy and the need for ready and concise reference on the part of the medical practitioner. Its intent is to assist the practitioner to recognize anachronistic medicine and to employ modern methods.

The conditions discussed are arranged alphabetically. There is abundant cross reference. The drugs used in treatment are usually given in the form of prescriptions. The prescriptions are written out in both English and Latin. (The author rightly assumes that the full Latin rendition will be instructive to many.) Doses are given in both the metric and apothecary systems.

As a summary of modern drug therapy—up to 1945 (there are few references past that year)—one may praise this book, even if one does not agree with all of the selection of remedies. For example, why should pellet implantation be the only form of testosterone therapy used for eunuchoidism and testosterone in oil the only form used in cryptorchidism? On the other hand, it is refreshing to read all through the treatment of abrasions of the skin and subcutaneous abscesses and see no recommendation of the old type of skin disinfectant; instead one is advised to make the wound as clean as possible, to cover it and to use penicillin or sulfathiazol topically.

It is a handy book to have in one's office.

THE 1947 YEAR BOOK OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY. Edited by J. P. Greenhill, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor of Gynecology, Cook County Graduate School of Medicine. The Year Book Publishers, Chicago. \$3.75.

Testing one's familiarity with the current literature, it is a great stimulus to read every summary and comment of *The 1947 Year Book of Obstetrics and Gynecology* so ably edited by Dr. J. P. Greenhill. From the first article "Fibrous Nature of Human Cervix and Its Relation to Isthmic Segment in Gravid and Nongravid Uteri" by Danforth (which, by the way, is a real contribution to the literature on this infrequently discussed subject) to the last division on "Endocrinology," one finds a crystal-clear, brief summation and

comment on the world literature. The conservative attitude concerning the value of the hormone test for pregnancy, the use of Vitamin E in sterility, abortions, premature labor, the limitations of the application of estrogen therapy and the comments on his own article, make one feel that the author is sound and honest in his opinions. Even an editorial prerogative, however, should not extend to such a selective interpretation of the use of spinal anesthesia in obstetrics. As enthusiastic as one may become about local anesthesia and as adept as one may be in its application, it has not been accepted as the anesthetic of choice in most clinics outside of those of the "Chicago group."

The outstanding articles in obstetrics reviewed in this book are Danforth's chapter on "Physiology," Hertig's and Sheldon's "Hydatidiform Mole," "Pregnancy in Patient with Hypertensive Disease" by Chesley and Annitto, and also Brown's and Mengert's "Recognition of Midpelvic Contraction." In Gynecology the chapter on "Infertility" has many helpful suggestions. In the section on Operative Technique, Shaw's article on the "Anatomy of the Vagina" is extremely valuable. Under Malignant Tumors, the work on vaginal smears is completely reviewed and emphasis is definitely placed on its limitations.

The articles by Norman F. Miller and Emil Novak on Carcinoma of the Corpus and Uterus are outstanding and the comments are most valuable.

The author and the publisher are to be complimented again for this excellent survey and the obstetrician and gynecologist who did not read the current literature as it was published, can relieve his professional conscience by reading *The 1947 Year Book of Obstetrics and Gynecology*.

CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY. By Clinton H. Thienes, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Pharmacology and Head of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif., and Thomas J. Haley, Ph.D., Fellow in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Los Angeles. Second Edition. Enlarged and thoroughly revised, illustrated. Lea and Febiger. 1948.

This book is 64 pages longer than the senior author's first edition. The increases have been made in descriptive material and in the number of tests for identifying the new drugs such as dihydromorphinone (dilaudid), ephedrine isomers, demerol, etc. New tests for several old poisons are included. The new antihistamines, benadryl and pyribenzamine, are recommended for use in histamine poisoning; BAL (2,3-dithiolpropanol) for metallic poisoning. The new insecticide, D.D.T., is also described and treatment indicated. There are two long lists of reactions of leading sulfonamides. Poisoning from vitamins is not overlooked, the two chief offenders being thiamine (B₁) and vitamin D.

This is more than a handy reference book on all aspects of poisons. There is a synopsis of all essential information about each drug. This is repetitious of the discussions in textbooks on pharmacology. The grouping of poisons according to their major toxic action is preserved from the first edition. The authors state that for each poison at least one of the treatments suggested should be available to the physician in time of emergency, and this seems to be adhered to throughout. Highly commendable features are sections devoted to chemical diagnosis, the tests being described with adequate discussions and details of use of apparatus and reagents, with remarks as to the limitations of and errors in devices, instruments, etc. There is also an appendix which describes the preparation of special reagents—information not readily found elsewhere.

While this book will be of interest chiefly to professional toxicologists, medico-legal experts, and clinical pathologists, there is enough in it of value to physicians in practice to justify having it on the office shelf of handy books.